

Senses & Behavior

Canopy Roost with Wildling

Learning target

Connect sensory information to an animal's response.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Sensory information; responses; finding food; avoiding danger

Open Canopy Roost - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Senses & Behavior - key ideas

1. The first clues

Senses gather information about surroundings. Animals respond to light, sounds, smells, touch and other signals, but their sensory abilities vary.

2. How the clues connect

A stimulus is a change or signal; a response is what the animal does. Finding food and avoiding danger can depend on these links.

3. Our evidence record

Our record shows a bird hearing a sudden sound and turning toward it. The sound is the stimulus, hearing gathers information, and turning is the response.

Keep the science accurate

Use a few animal groups and evidence. Avoid requiring a full taxonomy or implying every animal has identical senses or parental care.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/4-Is1-molecules-organisms-structures-and-processes>

Talk through the evidence

1. What is the stimulus in our record?

Expected answer: The sudden sound

Reasoning: Our record shows a bird hearing a sudden sound and turning toward it. The sound is the stimulus, hearing gathers information, and turning is the response.

2. What is the response?

Expected answer: Turning toward the sound

Reasoning: Our record shows a bird hearing a sudden sound and turning toward it. The sound is the stimulus, hearing gathers information, and turning is the response.

3. Do all animals sense the world identically?

Expected answer: No

Reasoning: Senses gather information about surroundings. Animals respond to light, sounds, smells, touch and other signals, but their sensory abilities vary.

4. Why connect stimulus, sense and response?

Expected answer: To explain observed behavior

Reasoning: A stimulus is a change or signal; a response is what the animal does. Finding food and avoiding danger can depend on these links.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.